

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

AA-36-Q-e
(map 29)
(287)
0202875404

AA-287

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON: "Smith's Purchase"					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: West corner of jct. of Rte 255 with Owensville - Sudley Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Owensville					
STATE Maryland			COUNTY: Anne Arundel		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Comments _____					
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. Edward W. Doherty					
STREET AND NUMBER: Owensville					
CITY OR TOWN: West River			STATE: Maryland		20881
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Map #68, A.D.#1, Parcel #151, Liber/Folio			STATE # formerly 1491/245		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If Known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Smith's Purchase is a large and comfortable frame house in the center of Owensville. Several features of the structure make it interesting and unusual.</p> <p>The first part of the house was built in 1838 by Dr. James Murray. It is a 2½ story, 3 bay, frame structure with an A-roof, and interior, end chimneys. Murraray, a practicing physician, altered the traditional, side-hall, double-parlor plan of houses of the Federal period to accomodate a small office, with a separate entrance, at the front of the building. Murray lived in the house for about five years, moving away only after his wife, pregnant with their first child, was killed by a fall down the cellar steps.</p> <p>For nearly a century the house was continuously occupied by doctors. Dr. Murray's successor was Dr. Estep Hall. In 1843, a plat was drawn of the property, identifying it as "Smith's Purchase", the name derived from an early patent. The fact that a survey was made indicates that the property probably changed hands at that time. In 1847, Dr. Hall enlarged the house by adding a 2 story, T-shaped wing to its south end. The house is shown on the 1860 county map under the name of Dr. Estep Hall.⁴ The next owner was Dr. Augustus Hall, whose name appears on the 1878 county map.⁵ Dr. Cheston acquired the house in about 1880 and his daughter, Clemence Cheston Burwell, remained there until 1971. Extensive renovation has been undertaken by the present owners and the house is in good condition.</p> <p>The 1838 section has a moderately pitched roof with its ridge running approximately north - south. There are 2 dormers on the east side with pedimented gables and segmentally arched window openings. The single dormer on the west side of the roof has a rectangular opening.</p> <p>The outside walls are sheathed in wood siding of graduated width, decreasing as it rises to the plain box cornice. The east (front) elevation has large 6/6 pane openings with louvred shutters. A one story, open porch covers the entrance and the first floor windows. The west elevation has four 6/6 pane windows on the second floor. A screened porch covers the four, floor to ceiling, 9 9 pane openings on the first floor.</p> <p>The main entrance, in the center bay of the east elevation, has a single door with two elaborately molded vertical panels. It is framed by 4 pane side-lights and a transom light with a diamond pane sash.</p> <p>The door leads into a foyer. The office is on the right (north side); the stairs lead up on the left; and straight ahead are the dining room</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1838, 1847

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dr. James Murray was one of the more prominent personalities of the West River Community. After he left Smith's Purchase he built another house near Harwood. Called Arden (#212 on the survey), it is a unique example of the Louisiana plantation style. It was built on land given to Dr. Murray by James Cheston of Hawthorne Ridge (#213).

Murray eventually married two of Cheston's daughters and had several children. He moved his family to Warrenton, Virginia at the start of the Civil War and entered the Confederate Army as a surgeon. A story is told about the soldiers and deserters from both armies who repeatedly ransacked the Warrenton farm. All of the stock was stolen except for one pony, belonging to the Murray children. They kept it covered with grease and claimed that it had a skin disease and would infect any other stock which was kept near it.

After the war, James Murray returned to Anne Arundel County, bought Cedar Park (#141) and lived there until his death.

SOURCE:

Conversation with E. Churchill Murray, Cumberstone, Md., October 1974.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Martenet, Simon I, Martenet's Map of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, No. 6 South Street, Baltimore, 1860
2. Hopkins, G.M., Atlas of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 320 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, 1978

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF ~~DEFINATED~~ PROPERTY: 3 acres

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE

12.**State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

7. DESCRIPTION:

and parlor, placed end to end on the west side of the building.

These two rooms are served by the end chimneys which rise to the west side of the roof ridge rather than being at the center. Rather than having a blank north wall, or an irregular placement of windows to fit the location of the chimney, Murray had three openings cut into the siding, installed frames, and covered them with louvred shutters. The chimney is directly behind two of these false windows. The ~~fourth~~^{third} opening, on the east side of the first floor (north wall), is the outside entrance to the office.

Much of the interior finishing of this section of the house is original. The stair has a walnut bannister and round birch spindles. It rises to a "good-morning" landing on the second floor, joining the two sections of the house. The floors are random width pine; the moldings are well executed examples of the Federal Style with fluted architraves and square corner blocks with medallions. Most of the doors are original and several of them have "Carpenter" latches, with seals, in perfect condition.

The 1847 wing of the house has simple details: mitered-corner moldings and plain mantels. The first floor plan consists of one room with a three-sided bay window at one end and a fire place at the other. On the other side of the chimney is the hall which leads to the stair and foyer of the 1838 section. On the opposite side of the hall is the kitchen.

Renovations to the house included the raising of the living and dining room doorways, the addition of marble facings to the fireplaces, and the covering of the original lath and plaster with sheet rock. The alterations have given the house far more elegance than is typical of its rural setting but it bears these changes well.



AA-
28x

(map 29) AA-36-Q-e
"Smith's Purchase"
East Elevation

amb 12-74



AA' ✓
20

(map 29) aa. 36-Q-e
"Smith's Purchase"
West Elevation

amb 12-74